DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 397 181 UD 031 059

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TITLE	Reducing Poverty in America: Views and Approaches.
REPORT NO	ISBN-0-7619-0007-1
PUB DATE	96
NOTE	399p.; Papers from the Conference on Reducing Poverty in America (Los Angeles, CA, January 1993).
AVAILABLE FROM	SAGE Publications, Inc., 2455 Teller Road, Thousand Oaks, CA 91320 (paperback: ISBN-0-7619-0007-1, $25.95; clothbound: ISBN-0-7619-0006-3, $52).
PUB TYPE	Books (010) -- Collected Works - General (020) -- Reports - Evaluative/Feasibility (142)
EDRS PRICE	Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	Behavior Change; Disadvantaged Youth; Economic Factors; Elementary Secondary Education; Job Training; *Low Income Groups; *Poverty; *Role of Education; *Social Class; *Urban Problems; *Welfare Services
IDENTIFIERS	Reform Efforts; *Underclass

ABSTRACT

It is a reality that many people are poor, and it is equally real that there is no firm basis to say how many millions of people really are poor. However much poverty there may be, Americans want to reduce it. In this collection of 18 essays, some leading scholars of poverty consider what can be done to reduce poverty. Part 1 explores poverty and the underclass, introducing the fundamental issues of whether it is necessary to reduce poverty defined as low income, or reduce welfare dependency, or whether the real problem is to save children otherwise destined to become part of a self-reproducing underclass. Part 2 then describes three broadly different visions of how to approach these goals through welfare reform, behavior change, or reform of urban society. Parts 3, 4, 5, and 6 examine in depth four areas of focus in antipoverty efforts: (1) education; (2) community empowerment; (3) job training; and (4) social interventions. Part 7 relates the state of knowledge reflected in these essays to the broader issues of Part 2. References follow most chapters. (Contains 13 tables and 57 figures.) (SLD)

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